DCSM comments:

Being a Soldier is not always easy; if it was everyone would or could do it. We all volunteered to serve in a privileged position in which many will not and it takes individual responsibility and dedication to do the right thing during our service. Do not always wait for someone to tell you to do something. Ask yourself; what can I do at my level and how can I best influence the fight to help accomplish my teams mission.

We identify many problems, but what is really important is identifying a solution. Whenever you identify a perceived problem also identify 3 Course of Actions. Recommend one of the Course of Actions and execute it to solve the problem. If a Noncommissioned Officer or Soldier is identifying a problem and not selecting a Course of Action to solve it then they are linked to the problem. Do not always blame they, them, those, or that for inaction of responsibilities.

As Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers we do not always have the option to pick what the priority is. The Military is a system that requires following legal orders and adapting to the changing of priorities when directed. We do not have the option to not do it because we do not want to do it... When a legal verbal or written order is given then it must be accomplished to the best of ones ability. The ability is determined by an individual Soldiers own development and attitude.

Continue to do the good job you are doing and always strive to get better. Stay prepared in all aspects. The success of the next mission depends on it. <u>Safety</u> awareness is also the responsibility of all Soldiers. **Your life, and your fellow Soldier's life, depends on you and we all depend on each other.** <u>Everyone</u> is valuable to the accomplishment of the team's mission.

"Learn and improve today, tomorrow may be the tough fight"

"Iron Soldiers"

Roger P. Blackwood

Command Sergeant Major

Royer P Blackwood

1st Armored Division